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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,669	09/19/2003	Tim Tuan	X-1462 US	8241
24309	7590	11/29/2005	EXAMINER	
XILINX, INC ATTN: LEGAL DEPARTMENT 2100 LOGIC DR SAN JOSE, CA 95124			CHANG, DANIEL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/666,669

Applicant(s)

TUAN ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel D. Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 33-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election of Species I (Fig. 4), claims 26-32, is acknowledged.

Claims 33-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Species II (Fig. 5), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on September 7, 2005.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 26 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tavana et al. (US 5,682,107) in view of Houston (US 5,615,162).

Regarding claim 26, Tavana discloses a programmable logic device (100 in Fig. 1) comprising: a plurality of resources logically subdivided into a plurality of programmable logic blocks (101 in Fig. 1 and more specifically CLB 301 in Fig. 4A); a first voltage supply terminal (not specifically shown but inherent for each of CLB 301, see col. 4, lines 23+) configured to receive a first supply voltage (VCC in Fig. 1);

Houston teaches a plurality of first switch elements (40, 42, 44), wherein each first switch element is coupled between one of the memory blocks (32, 34, 36) and the first voltage supply

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terminal (col. 3, lines 35+) for the purpose of selectively providing power or no power to the memory blocks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have provided the programmable logic blocks of Tavana with the first switch elements as taught by Houston in order to selectively provide power to the programmable logic blocks.

Regarding claim 32, Houston discloses in Fig. 3, that each first switch element comprises a transistor (40, 42, 44).

Claims 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over modified Tavana in view of Keeth (US 5,946,257).

Regarding claim 27, the modified programmable logic device of Tavana as applied to claim 26 teaches all the features of the claimed invention and also teaches a second voltage supply terminal (not specifically shown but inherent for each of CLB 301, see col. 4, lines 23+) configured to receive a second supply voltage (GND) but does not disclose a plurality of second switch elements, wherein each second switch element is coupled between one of the programmable logic blocks and the second voltage supply terminal.

Keeth teaches a second switch element (919 in Fig. 9) coupled between the logic block (928, 930) and ground along with a first switch (918) coupled between the first supply voltage and the logic block for the purpose of selectively providing power to the logic block.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have provided the logic block of modified Tavana with the

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second switch between the logic block and ground as taught by Keeth in order to selectively provide power to the logic block.

Regarding claim 28, Keeth discloses in Fig. 9, a control circuit (916) coupled to the plurality of first switch elements (918), wherein the control circuit is configured to provide a plurality of control signals (output of 942 connected to 919 and output of 944 connected to 918; see col. 10, lines 11+) for controlling the plurality of first switch elements.

Regarding claim 29, Keeth discloses in Fig. 9, that the control circuit (916) comprises a plurality of configuration memory cells (947) configured to store a corresponding plurality of configuration data values (col. 10, lines 29), wherein the control circuit provides the plurality of control signals (output of 942 connected to 919 and output of 944 connected to 918; see col. 10, lines 11+) in response to the plurality of configuration data values.

Regarding claim 30, Keeth discloses in Fig. 9, that the control circuit (916) further comprises a plurality of user control terminals (CONTROL; see abstract) configured to receive a corresponding plurality of user control signals, wherein the control circuit (916) further provides the plurality of control signals (output of 942 connected to 919 and output of 944 connected to 918; see col. 10, lines 11+) in response to the plurality of user control signals.

Regarding claim 31, Keeth discloses in Fig. 9, that the control circuit (916) comprises a plurality of user control terminals (CONTROL; see abstract) configured to receive a corresponding plurality of user control signals, wherein the control circuit (916) provides the plurality of control signals (output of 942 connected to 919 and output of 944 connected to 918; see col. 10, lines 11+) in response to the plurality of user control signals.

***Response to Argument***

Applicant's arguments filed May 18, 2005 with respect to claims 26-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D. Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on (571) 272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel D. Chang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2819

dc

**DANIEL CHANG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**